



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2019

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Director  
Office of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** November 19, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **November 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

**We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A on the first floor.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the October 15, 2019 AAC meeting will be available at the meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site. I will bring copies of the minutes, agenda, and other attachments.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

\*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting November 15, 2019 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from October 15, 2019.
3. Update on the Farm Alcohol Production Facilities-FAPF-The DPS and OAG are working on another proposed Farm Brewery. They have an existing tap room in the Gaithersburg, and they have a contract to purchase a farm in the Agricultural Reserve for new production facility and future tap room.
4. The Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC met on Tuesday October 29, 2019. The Study and Final report will be presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board on December 19, 2019. The County Council will receive the Study and Report after the holidays. We are not sure what the County Council will do on the Study and Final report. A Zoning Text Amendment is recommended to improve the definition of Agricultural Education and Tourism. Jeremy met with members of the League of Women Voters Agriculture Committee to discuss agritourism including their concerns.
5. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot Phase II along Sugarland Road is being installed. The system will be activated this month.  
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>
6. The University of Maryland Extension made a job offer regarding the David Gordon's 4-H Livestock position. The new employee will start in December.
7. Elrich Administration has proposed a Comprehensive Tree Trimming effort to bring the farming rustic road users and the rustic roads supporters together to agree on acceptable tree trimming. *Please see the attached messages from Dale Tibbitts.*
8. Proposed State Legislation-State Bill Hearings December 2 and 9, 2019 COB 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC6-20.pdf> - proposal to add rifles as acceptable firearms in Montgomery County while hunting with a deer management permit.  
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC7-20stored10-29-19.pdf> - proposal to change the County ag transfer tax law, would direct the collections to be used for ag preservation and programs that support agriculture.  
[http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC16-20\\_000.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC16-20_000.pdf) - proposed annual fee on country clubs and golf courses, that fee would go into the ag preservation fund.  
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC26-20.pdf> - Adding Montgomery County to the 50 and under club for ag tourism venue capacity.

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC9-20stored10-30-19.pdf> - this bill could affect the number of hours that Farm Alcohol Production Facilities are allowed to operate.

These are just the ones currently listed on the Montgomery County Delegation website, there could always be more proposed bills.

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/>

9. Bill 34-19 Taxation-Development Impact Taxes-Affordable Housing Impact Fairness. The Public Hearing is scheduled for December 3, 2019. *The Office of Agriculture recommends the agricultural community oppose this bill on the merits of how affordable and workforce housing policies have deemphasized the need and demand for both TDRs for receiving area projects and demand for Building Lot Termination-BLTs.* [https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/cclims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2632\\_1\\_9749\\_Bill\\_34-19\\_Introduction\\_20191015.pdf](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/cclims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2632_1_9749_Bill_34-19_Introduction_20191015.pdf)
10. ZTA 19-07 Telecommunications Towers-Limited Land Use. The Public Hearing is scheduled for November 19, 2019. *Please see the attached messages between Hans Riemer' staff and Jeremy Criss.* <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2019/ZTA%2019-07.pdf>
11. Proposal to allow Community Solar in the Agricultural Reserve- *Please see the attached messages between Hans Riemer' staff and Jeremy Criss.*
12. Farmer Round Table with US Senator Ben Cardin-Friday December 6, 2019 at 10:00 am. *Please see the attached flyer.*
13. The Agricultural agencies have scheduled a Legislative Luncheon on Thursday December 12, 2019 at Seneca Ayr Farm. *See attached flyer.*
14. Update on the County Pesticide Law and Update on Round Up-*Please see attached messages from Mike Scheffel and Aliza Silver.*
15. Next meeting of the AAC-December 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

MARBIDCO Meeting-November 18, 2019

General Plan Update Advisory Committee-November 19, 2019

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 19, 2019

Montgomery County Delegation Reception-November 20, 2019

State Bill Public Hearing in Rockville-December 2, and 9, 2019

Montgomery County Farm Bureau-December 3, 2019

Farmer Round Table Discussion-Senator Ben Cardin-December 6, 2019

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-December 10, 2019

Legislative Luncheon-Seneca Ayr Farm-December 12, 2019

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-December 13, 2019

Agritourism Report Briefing-Montgomery County Planning Bd-December 19, 2019